

## **Planning for Informational Meetings**

### **Tool 7b**

#### **More Detailed Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Sample\***

### **RELOOC – Regional Landfill Options for Orange County And Olinda Alpha Landfill Expansion**

#### **Information and Frequently Asked Questions**

Orange County residents generate enough waste to fill a major league stadium every five months. Disposing of the waste safely is the responsibility of the County Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD). Private haulers pick up the waste, remove recyclable materials and take residual waste to one of three County-owned landfills operated by IWMD.

The three landfills are referred to as the Orange County Landfill System. Because the landfill system is the primary means available for safely disposing of waste, it is a valuable and vital public asset. It is central to ensuring the protection of local public health, and high quality community and business environments. A partnership exists between the County of Orange and all the cities of Orange County for ensuring the provision of effective, affordable countywide disposal services.

IWMD's mission is to meet the solid waste disposal needs of Orange County through efficient operations, sound environmental practices, strategic planning, innovation and technology.

The Olinda Alpha Landfill near Brea is one of the County's three landfills. The other two are in county unincorporated areas near Irvine and San Juan Capistrano/San Clemente.

#### **Olinda Alpha Landfill**

1942 Valencia Avenue, Brea, California 92823

#### **Hours of Operation**

Monday through Saturday

6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for transfer trucks

7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for general public and commercial haulers

Closed on Sundays and major holidays

#### **Site Information**

- The Olinda Alpha Landfill (OAL) is owned and operated by the County of Orange Integrated Waste Management Department (IWMD).
- Landfill opened in 1960.
- OAL is a Class III sanitary landfill and accepts only non-hazardous waste.
- Size: Approximately 565 acres with about 420 acres to be used for waste disposal.
- Currently receives approximately 7,000 tons of waste per day. Maximum permitted daily refuse capacity for the facility is 8,000 tons per day.
- Per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Brea, the landfill will be operational until December 31, 2013.
- OAL is the only Orange County landfill that accepts waste tires, which are then recycled.

## **Environmental Controls**

- IWMD works cooperatively with environmental regulators to ensure full compliance with all Federal, State and local codes, ordinances, and regulations.
- OAL has a network of proactive environmental programs and control systems to prevent any potential impacts to areas surrounding the landfill including:
  - Landfill Gas Monitoring, Recovery and Control System/Landfill Gas to Energy Plant.
  - Hazardous Waste Control Program.
  - Groundwater Monitoring, Extraction and Treatment System.
  - Storm Water Monitoring/Surface Water Drainage and Erosion/Sediment control.
  - Controls for fire, dust, vector and birds, litter, noise, and odor.

**Draft EIR 588 – Draft Environmental Impact Report for the RELOOC Strategic Plan – Olinda Alpha Landfill Implementation** analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with continuation of the existing operation of the Olinda Alpha Landfill beyond 2013 to the estimated closure year 2021. The extension of the life of the landfill will be accomplished by a small expansion to increase overall landfill capacity.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is RELOOC and what process was used to develop the RELOOC Strategic Plan?**

- RELOOC is short for Regional Landfill Options for Orange County.
- RELOOC is IWMD's 40-year strategic plan to meet the County's solid waste disposal needs.
- A team approach was used to develop the RELOOC Strategic Plan that included:
  - IWMD Staff;
  - Consultant services;
  - Community-based Steering Committee consisting of representatives from:
    - Community-at-Large;
    - Brea, Irvine, San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente (Landfill host cities);
    - League of Cities;
    - City Managers' Association;
    - Orange County Waste Management Commission;
    - County of Orange Executive Office
- The RELOOC Team
  - Considered available in-County and out-of-County disposal options as well as alternative disposal technologies
  - Conducted demand, capacity & economic analyses
  - Evaluated:
    - Environmental Impacts
    - Cost of Implementation
    - Level of Control
    - Remaining Capacity
    - Community Acceptance
  - Conducted community involvement program including:
    - Over 140 meetings with communities and stakeholders (21 in City of Brea)
  - Developed 40-year RELOOC Strategic Plan

## What is in the RELOOC Strategic Plan?

- A plan to meet the County's waste disposal needs for the next 40 years
- Includes both short- and long-term strategies
- Short-term strategies:
  - Maximize capacity at existing sites:
    - Landfill expansion at Olinda Alpha & Frank R. Bowerman (FRB) landfills;
    - Improved compaction;
    - Use of Alternative Daily Covers (ADC).
  - Work with host communities to resolve issues associated with landfill expansion;
  - Reevaluate Strategic Plan annually.
- Long-term strategies – Three studies:
  - Determine the need to increase maximum daily tonnage at Prima Deshecha Landfill
  - Analyze feasibility of utilizing alternative waste disposal technologies
  - Determine feasibility of expanding FRB into adjacent Round Canyon

## What are the landfill expansion plans?

Expansions are proposed for both the Olinda Alpha and FRB landfills

### Expand Olinda Alpha Landfill

- Expansion within existing County-owned property boundary:
  - Horizontally approx. 33 acres in far back canyon;
  - Vertically approx. 115 feet over current permitted;
- Daily tonnage limit remains the same (no increase in daily volume/tonnage);
- Extends landfill 2013 closure date about 8 years (using current technology).

### Expand Frank R. Bowerman (FRB) Landfill

- A major landslide occurred at the FRB Landfill in February 2002;
- The Olinda Alpha and FRB landfill RELOOC components are independent of each other;
- A separate EIR will be prepared for the FRB expansion component of RELOOC after site Master Development Plan is finalized (~ May 2005).

## Why is expansion necessary?

- To maintain the County three-landfill system which maximizes local control over disposal capacity, cost and environmental impacts.
- To ensure County waste disposal needs are met within Orange County.
  - Nearly 4 million tons of waste per year are disposed of in the County landfill system (3.8 million tons in FY 2003-04).
  - A change in status at Olinda Alpha Landfill impacts the entire County, not just North Orange County or the City of Brea.
  - Impacts associated with closure of this landfill that will affect all County residents include:
    - North-County waste would have to be hauled south to one of the two remaining landfills or to a landfill in another county,

- Increased air pollution and traffic congestion due to the longer distance for hauling,
  - Increased wear and tear on County roads,
  - Increased transportation costs
  - Resulting in increased disposal rates for all County residents.
- To ensure that disposal rates can remain low.
  - Current rate is \$22/ton.
  - The longer the County has local control and provides for disposal within the County, the longer landfill gate fees can be maintained at a lower rate.
  - Hauling refuse outside the County (“to export”) will result in higher disposal rates that will be passed on to residents by local haulers:
    - Longer hauling distance to transport;
    - More fuel, wear & tear on vehicles, vehicle maintenance.
  - The cost to export trash will depend on several factors:
    - Whether the trash will be truck hauled or sent on railroad car;
    - Distance traveled;
    - Fee at the destination landfill.

### **How far away from residents is the proposed expansion area?**

- About  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the proposed expansion area.

### **What are the resident’s concerns?**

- Mainly traffic, air quality, and noise.

### **What is the County doing to address these concerns?**

- Twenty-eight mitigation measures are proposed in the EIR to address impacts associated with extension of the life of the landfill.
- IWMD works closely with the City of Brea and the haulers to address these concerns.
- Soliciting as much input as possible:
  - RELOOC Hotline: (714) 834-3562.
  - IWMD Website – Future of Waste Disposal – includes:
    - Strategic Plan;
    - FAQs;
    - Public meetings and schedule information;
    - Draft EIR.
- IWMD invited residents to provide input on what should be evaluated in the EIR.
- Draft EIR was available for public review/comment for 45 days, June 17 – August 2, 2004 at local libraries, IWMD Headquarters and Online at [www.oclandfills.com](http://www.oclandfills.com).
  - Other opportunities for public input were the November 17, 2004 Planning Commission public hearing and the Board of Supervisors public hearing.

## **How will mitigation measures for the project be established and implemented?**

Mitigation measures are identified and proposed in the EIR. They will be adopted or modified after the project is considered by the County Board of Supervisors. Implementation process and timing will be coordinated with the City of Brea through changes in the Memorandum of Understanding between the County of Orange and the City of Brea.

## **Has the City of Brea been involved in the RELOOC Strategic Plan development?**

- City of Brea participated in the development of the Strategic Plan from the beginning.
- City of Brea has had representation (Council member and/or City Manager) on:
  - RELOOC Steering Committee;
  - City Managers Solid Waste Working Group;
  - Orange County Waste Management Commission.
- RELOOC reviewed and approved by the Orange County City Managers Association.
- Twenty one public meetings have been conducted in the City of Brea:
  - Presentations to City Council and staff (8)
  - Presentation to Chamber of Commerce (1).
  - Public meetings held in Brea:
    - Strategic Plan Community Involvement (7);
    - Environmental analysis planning (3 Public Scoping meetings);
    - Information booths (2) – Earth Day and Olinda Ranch Welcoming.

## **Does the City of Brea support the expansion?**

- IWMD cannot speak for the City.
- Our understanding is the City is supportive if properly implemented and mitigated. It understands the importance of maintaining the landfill system for the health, safety and quality of life of the residents of Brea and all of Orange County. The City of Brea participated in the development of the Strategic Plan from the inception of this project.

## **When would the expansion begin at Olinda Alpha Landfill?**

Expansion would begin in about 2014.

In 2013 the landfill height will be below the currently permitted elevation of 1300 feet. IWMD would begin filling in the 33-acre horizontal expansion area in about 2014-2015. The vertical expansion would not begin until about 2016.

## **The landfill closure date has been changed several times. Will the landfill be closed in 2021 or will there be another request to extend the life of this landfill?**

Landfill closure dates are based on science, engineering analysis, technology existing at the time of development, permitted tonnage limits, MOU agreements with the host city and other factors. As technology changes, landfills operationally perform better, enhancing the ability to maximize the available space of this valuable asset. The DEIR uses 2021 as the projected closure date based on research and the best estimate possible when considering known factors.

## **How does the expansion affect the proposed park use for the site at closure?**

- While the proposed expansion would delay development of the Natural Regional Park (a passive use park) until closure of the landfill, there is no change in the policy commitment by the County and the City to the development of the park.
- The landfill end use was redesignated to a Natural Regional Park in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Orange and the City of Brea dated June 13, 1995.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendments to the MOU provided for City development of a Sports Park prior to landfill closure in lieu of active park use on the landfill after closure. Funds have been provided to the City by the County for development of the City's sports park:

\$4.0 Million - Property Acquisition

\$1.5 Million - Planning and Design

\$3.9 Million - Construction

**\$9.4 Million – Total funds provided to City of Brea for Sports Park**

## **What is the estimated cost of the proposed Olinda Alpha Landfill expansion?**

A cost for the Olinda Alpha Landfill proposed expansion has not yet been established. It will, however, include the cost of capital improvements required, including a landfill liner in the horizontal expansion area, landfill gas collection and flare station facilities, and drainage facilities necessary to ensure compliance with landfill regulations. The extent of these improvements has not yet been determined. If the expansion is approved, the lateral expansion design will be finalized after additional design data is obtained and prior to construction. A full cost analysis, design plan and schedule will be developed after the additional design data is available and in consultation with the City of Brea. Allocation of funds for the landfill expansion will be subject to review and approval by the Board of Supervisors.

## **Why is access to the landfill via Tonner Canyon not included in this EIR?**

- The RELOOC Team determined that the RELOOC Strategic Plan should retain landfill access via Valencia Avenue for the following reasons:
  - In 1994, the County completed a landfill access road study, which concluded that Valencia Avenue is the environmentally superior and preferred alternative for access to the landfill.
  - The 1997 Final EIR 550 – Olinda/Olinda Alpha Access Road provided environmental analysis of the use of Tonner Canyon Road as access to the landfill. The significant impacts to an important wildlife movement corridor and construction costs estimated at more than five times the cost of improved access via Valencia Avenue were considerations in the Board of Supervisors selection of Valencia Avenue as the Preferred Alternative.
  - Improvements to Valencia Avenue paid for by IWMD and constructed since 1997 provide the necessary capacity on Valencia Avenue to adequately serve the landfill.

- Approval of the Tonner Hills Planned Community in 2002 did not include an extension of Tonner Canyon Road.
- The City of Brea has requested that the Tonner Canyon extension be deleted from the Orange County Transportation Authority Master Plan of Arterial Highways and the City of Brea Master Plan of Roadways.
- DEIR 588 analyzes potential environmental impacts associated with continuation of existing operation of the Olinda Alpha Landfill beyond 2013 to the estimated closure date of 2021.
- The extension of Tonner Canyon Road is not proposed as part of the project and, therefore, its environmental impacts are not analyzed in detail in the DEIR. However, discussion of the impacts of an extension of Tonner Canyon Road from other documents is summarized in the DEIR.

### **What are the next steps in the project?**

Summer 2005	County Board of Supervisors Public Hearing
Summer 2005	Update County/City of Brea Memorandum of Understanding
Before Implementation	Obtain regulatory approval and Revise landfill operating permits

### **Where can the public go for more information?**

IWMD Website:	<a href="http://www.oclandfills.com">www.oclandfills.com</a>
E-Mail Address:	<a href="mailto:RELOOC-OAL@iwmd.ocgov.com">RELOOC-OAL@iwmd.ocgov.com</a>
RELOOC Hotline:	(714) 834-3562
RELOOC Mailing List:	Ask to be added (e-mail or postal mail service)
IWMD Public Information:	(714) 834-4176

**\*This sample was prepared by the operator for a public meeting. A FAQ prepared by the LEA for an informational meeting should focus on LEA issues and areas of expertise.**